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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 38 of the preliminary list*
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania, issued on 16 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 16 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania

The Presidency of the European Union is deeply concerned by the continued lack of consensus among the Albanian political parties regarding a new electoral law needed to proceed with early elections at the end of June, as agreed upon by all parties.

Albanian political differences must be resolved by Albanians and within the time-frame they themselves have set.

The Presidency of the European Union strongly supports the efforts of Dr. Vranitzky, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with whom it is in continuous contact.

The Presidency urges all political parties in Albania to reach agreement on the electoral law, on free access to the media and on participation in the elections.

Should the current political stalemate not be overcome within the coming days and should elections not take place on 29 June, the European Union, in close coordination with the international community as a whole, may be forced to reconsider its efforts in support of Albania.

It is up to the Albanian parties to create the right conditions for the future of their country.

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Fifty-second session
Item 82 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the Turkish incursion into Iraq, issued on 16 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Turkish incursion into Iraq, issued on 16 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The Presidency of the European Union notes with concern the fact that the Turkish armed forces have once again entered northern Iraq. Notwithstanding its understanding of the Turkish wish to end terrorist actions, the Presidency of the European Union stresses that a solution to the Kurdish problem can only be achieved politically, not militarily. It calls on Turkey to exercise the utmost restraint, to respect human rights, not to endanger the lives of innocent civilians and to withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territory as soon as possible.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the Chechnya peace accord, issued on 16 May 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Chechnya peace accord, issued on 16 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

On 12 May, President Yeltsin and President Mashkadov signed the Treaty of peace and principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

The European Union welcomes this treaty and the other agreements signed on the same occasion as further significant steps towards reconciliation, political and economic cooperation and lasting peace in Chechnya.

The European Union hopes that post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation can now start as soon as possible and reiterates its strong support for the work carried out by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Assistance Group in facilitating this.

The European Union has just made available considerable humanitarian assistance and now expects the much needed aid deliveries to reach Chechnya more easily.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.